

REMARKS

Prior to this Reply, Claims 1-37 were pending. Through this Reply, Claims 1, 18, 20 and 37 have been amended. Furthermore, Claims 38-57 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-57 are now at issue in the present case.

I. Drawings

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner objected to the drawings. A Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, which accompanied the Office Action, set forth certain objections to the drawings.

In response, Applicants are submitting replacement Figs. 1-7 (contained on Replacement Sheets 1-4) to improve the quality of the drawings. No new matter has been added. Figs. 1-7 constitute all of the drawings of the application.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been overcome.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to Claims 9-15, 17, 28-34 and 36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that such claims would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants are submitting new Claims 38-53, which substantially correspond with Claims 9-15, 17, 28-34 and 36. Applicants believe that Claims 38-53 are in condition for allowance.

III. Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 7, 18-21, 26 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115,787 to Obara (hereinafter “Obara”). The Examiner also rejected Claims 3-6, 8, 16, 22-25, 27 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Obara in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,484 to Rothberg et al. (hereinafter “Rothberg”).

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated:

Regarding claims 1-2 and 18-19, Obara teaches a disk drive coupled to a host computer via an interface, data supplied from the host to the disk drive and data read from the disk drive and outputted to the host are temporarily stored in a cache memory (or buffer)(see col. 5, ln. 3-18). Data to be written is stored in the cache and divided into cache blocks (or host blocks) of 2Kbytes each. The cache blocks are written into the disk drive into track blocks (or disk blocks), where one track block has the capacity of two cache block lengths (see col. 7, ln. 16-39 and col. 8, ln. 45-67). Data to be transferred to the host from the disk drive is read out in track blocks to the cache, then transferred in cache blocks to the host (see col. 14, ln. 1-34).

Assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner is reading Obara properly, it appears that data transferred from the host to the cache is compressed and data transferred from the cache to the host is decompressed (see the text corresponding to the column and line numbers referenced by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action).

Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 20 by adding the following limitation: “wherein the host blocks are not compressed while being delivered from the host computer to the disk drive.” In addition, independent Claim 18 has been amended to include the following limitation: “wherein the disk block and the plurality of host blocks are not decompressed,” while independent Claim 37 has been amended to include the following limitation: “wherein the host block is not decompressed.”

IV. New Claims 54-57

Applicants have added new independent Claims 54-57, which are believed to be broader than Claims 1, 18, 20 and 37, respectively. Applicants believe that such claims are patentably distinguishable from Obara and Rothberg.

V. Additional Claim Fees

In determining whether additional claim fees are due, reference is made to the Fee Calculation Table (below).

Fee Calculation Table

	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Additional Fee
Total (37 CFR 1.16(c))	54	Minus	37	= 17	x \$18 =	\$ 306.00
Independent (37 CFR 1.16(b))	14	Minus	4	= 10	x \$86 =	\$ 860.00

As set forth in the Fee Calculation Table (above), Applicants previously paid claim fees for thirty-seven (37) total claims and for four (4) independent claims. Accordingly, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 in the amount of \$1166.00 for the presentation of seventeen (17) total claims in excess of thirty-seven (37) and for the presentation of ten (10) independent claims in excess of four (4).

Applicants believe that no other fees are due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2198 for any fee deficiencies associated with filing this paper.

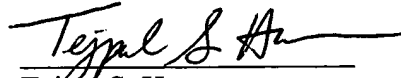
VI. Conclusion

It is believed the above comments establish patentability. Applicants do not necessarily accede to the assertions and statements in the Office Action, whether or not expressly addressed.

Applicants believe that the application appears to be in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number regarding any matters relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tejpal S. Hansra", written over a horizontal line.

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